

# Of Spooks and Spies and Cloaks and Daggers: The U.S. Intelligence Community

CPYRGHT

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## Highlights:

- 1—America's spy apparatus involves no less than 10 Federal agencies.
- 2—Their functions are reviewed with an eye toward uncovering problem areas.
- 3—The duplication of effort, while necessary to a degree, seems to have outgrown its rationality.
- 4—The impact of sophisticated intelligence collection systems such as satellites is far-reaching and worrisome.
- 5—An impartial review of the national intelligence structure might improve this vital segment of Government.

INTELLIGENCE, when used in the context of espionage, seems to be a virility symbol for most Americans—one that immediately equates the profession to such allegedly masculine ventures as murder, coup-plotting, intrigue and a dash of illicit lovemaking.

Their minds somehow entangle the violence of pro football, the screen antics of James Bond and lingering WWII memories of parachuting behind enemy lines with an exaggerated sense of "duty, honor, country."

The contrast between the Hollywood version and the actual profession of intelligence is stark. In a word a career

in intelligence is "dull." "Bureaucracy," "conformity," and "paper-mill" are more meaningful power phrases to an intelligence professional than "power-play," "clandestine operations" or even "spy."

The sole reason behind all U.S. intelligence efforts is what comes out as the finished product—the report that informs the President of developments abroad vital to U.S. interests. And there are today considerably more people engaged in the complex intelligence community processing, analyzing and reporting on the flow of paper than there are collecting it.

Additionally, the remarkable advances in technology which have afforded the U.S. Government the use of such devices as satellite-borne cameras, electronic impulse sensors and infrared and microwave receivers have injected the necessity for having a wide variety of technical specialists operating in terrain once occupied by the lone wolf spy.

In this article on U.S. intelligence it is hoped that an understanding of what the "community" is can be conveyed. Who, in other words, is in the spy business in the U.S. Government and why. What they produce in the form of finished reports may also help shed some light on basic yet largely ignored problems within the community, such as the enormous duplication of effort and the cumbersome bureaucracy.

At the top of the pyramid sits the President. Directly beneath him is his Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board—a group of men from outside Government set up by President Kennedy on May 4, 1961 in an attempt to avoid getting railroaded into another Bay of Pigs fiasco. Their charter says they are to "conduct a continuing review and assessment of all functions of the CIA and other executive departments or agencies in the foreign intelligence

